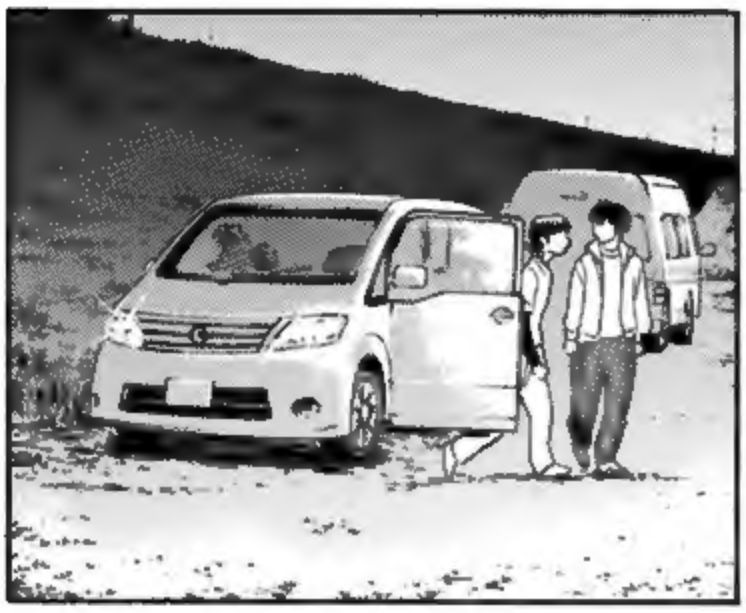
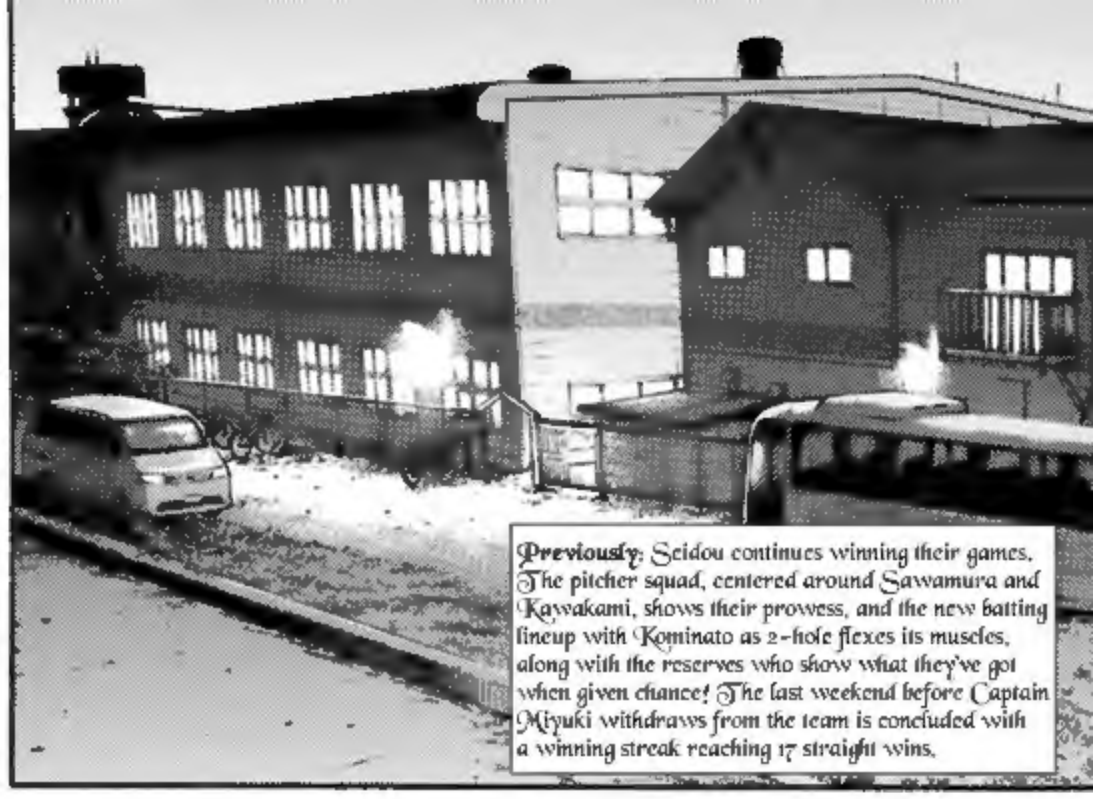
↓金丸の表紙が目印!! 最新KC⑨巻、大好評発売中!!

17 STRAIGHT WINS THROUGH THE PITCHERS' EFFORT AND THE LINEUP'S ABILITY! CAPTAIN MIYUKI GOES OFF TO TOKYO SENBATSU!!

CHAPTER 97
TALL WALL





Previously: Seidou continues winning their games. The pitcher squad, centered around Sawamura and Kawakami, shows their prowess, and the new batting lineup with Kominato as 2-hole flexes its muscles, along with the reserves who show what they've got when given chance! The last weekend before Captain Miyuki withdraws from the team is concluded with a winning streak reaching 17 straight wins.

WITH THE SUMMER TOURNAMENT APPROACHING, IT LOOKS LIKE QUITE A FEW PLAYERS TURNED DOWN THE INVITATION.

FROM YAKUSHI, THERE'S NOT SANADA BUT THEIR CAPTAIN, HIRAHATA, INSTEAD.

FROM ICHIDAI SANKOU WE HAVE THEIR 4TH BATTER, HOSHIDA.

TEITOU'S INUI IS TO CAPTAIN THE REPRE-SENTATIVE TEAM, HUH.

ARE YOU UP-SET?

NO, NOT AT ALL. IF ANYTHING, I'M RELIEVED.

THE TOKYO SENBATSU TEAM IS CENTERED AROUND THIRD YEARS AND CONSISTS OF 18 PLAYERS, ONE PER SCHOOL.

FROM INAJITSU JITSUGYOU THOUGH, 4 PLAYERS WERE ELECTED, ALONG WITH THEIR COACH KUNITOMO WHO WILL BE IN CHARGE OF THE TEAM.

THE FIELD TO BE USED FOR JOINT PRACTICE WILL ALSO BE THAT OF INAJITSU.

FROM WHAT I'VE HEARD, AMERICA WILL BE REPRESENTED BY 18 PLAYERS BELONGING TO WIND YOUTH ACADEMY, LOCATED ON THE WEST COAST.

ACCORDING TO SOME RUMORS, THEIR COACH IS A FORMER MLB PLAYER WHO VOLUNTEERED FOR THE JOB.

THEY SEEM TO BE A TEAM MADE UP OF STUDENTS FROM HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE SUBURBS OF LOS ANGELES RATHER THAN FROM THE WHOLE TERRI-TORY OF THE USA.

NOT ONLY WILL YOU GET TO PLAY ON INAJITSU'S FIELD BUT ALSO EVEN CATCH NARUMIYA'S PITCHES.

THERE CAN HARDLY BE A BETTER ENEMY RECON OPPORTUNITY TO WISH FOR.

I HAVE TO BOW MY HEAD TO KUNITOMO-SAN WHO ACCEPTED THIS INITIATIVE

IN ORDER TO ENSURE CONTINUED GOODWILL BETWEEN AMERICA AND JAPAN, AS WELL AS TO BOOST THE LEVEL OF TOKYO'S BASEBALL.

THAT'S PRECISELY WHY I HAVE TO WONDER IF THEY WILL ACTUALLY SHOW ME WHAT'S UP THEIR SLEEVE. IT JUST SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE.

THAT, I HAVE TO AGREE WITH.

ONLY, PLAYING FOR THE SAME TEAM AS OTHER PLAYERS THE SAME AGE AS YOU IS BOUND TO LIGHT A FIRE BENEATH ANYONE.

SO GO AND SHOW THEM ALL WHAT YOU'VE GOT AS A BASEBALL PLAYER.

I DO FEEL BAD HAVING TO LEAVE THE TEAM AT AN IMPORTANT TIME LIKE THIS,

BUT I PROMISE TO BRING BACK SOMETHING THAT WILL BE OF ADVANTAGE TO US IN THE FUTURE.

...YES, SIR.

NOW, LET'S TALK ABOUT THE FIRST YEARS THAT ARE TO JOIN THE FIRST STRING...

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE YOU GOT A BREAK FROM YOUR CAPTAIN DUTIES, TOO, HASN'T IT.

YES, IT HAS.

JUST MAKE SURE NOT TO GET INJURED.

I'M BACK!

WELCOME, WELCOME.

HOW DID IT GO?

HOW'S FURUYA?

NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. HE'S PITCHED FOR 2 DAYS, BUT THERE'S NO PAIN AT ALL, APPARENTLY.

HE'LL STILL HAVE TO GET MASSAGE REGULARLY,

BUT EVEN HIGUCHI-SENSEI SAID HIS CONDITION IS IMPROVING FAST.

SHIMA 37

YEAH, GOOD TO HAVE YOU BACK.

WELCOME BACK.

I'M BACK.

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SO HOW WAS IT?

NO PROBLEM, AS FAR AS I CAN TELL.

THEY SAY IT'S EASY TO HAVE A RELAPSE JUST AS YOUR INJURY STARTED TO HEAL, SO DON'T PUSH YOURSELF.

I SEE...

I'M PLANNING TO CONTINUE DOING THE TRAINING MENU FOCUSED ON STRENGTHENING MY LOWER HALF THAT COACH OCHIAI COMPILED FOR ME.

I WON'T.

You wanna pitch? Hm?

ALTHOUGH THE RESTRICTION ON PITCH COUNT WASN'T LIFTED,

THE DOCTOR SAID IT'S OK FOR ME TO PARTICIPATE IN PITCHING PRACTICE.

FURUYA-SAN,

WOULD IT BE ALRIGHT WITH YOU IF I CAUGHT FOR YOU THE NEXT TIME YOU PITCH IN THE BULLPEN?

I PROMISE I WILL STAND DOWN THE MOMENT YOU TELL ME TO, BUT...

I'D LIKE TO GET MORE USED TO YOUR PITCHES, IF JUST A LITTLE.

THANK YOU! I CAN'T WAIT!

TOMORROW IS A NO-THROW DAY THOUGH.

SURE...

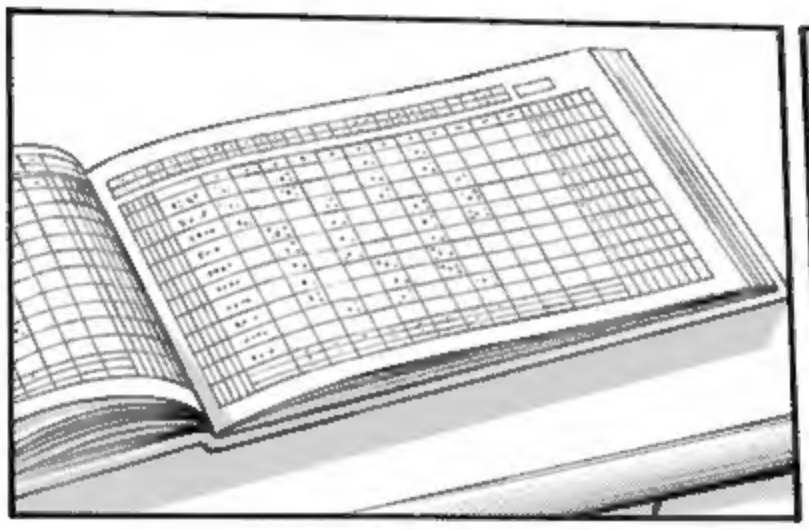
ACTUALLY, I WAS GOING TO ASK YOU MYSELF.

SEEING THAT WE'LL PROBABLY GOING TO FORM A BATTERY IN GAMES SOMEWHERE DOWN THE LINE ANYWAY.

FURUYA, I, TOO, WANT TO ASK THE SAME OF YOU.

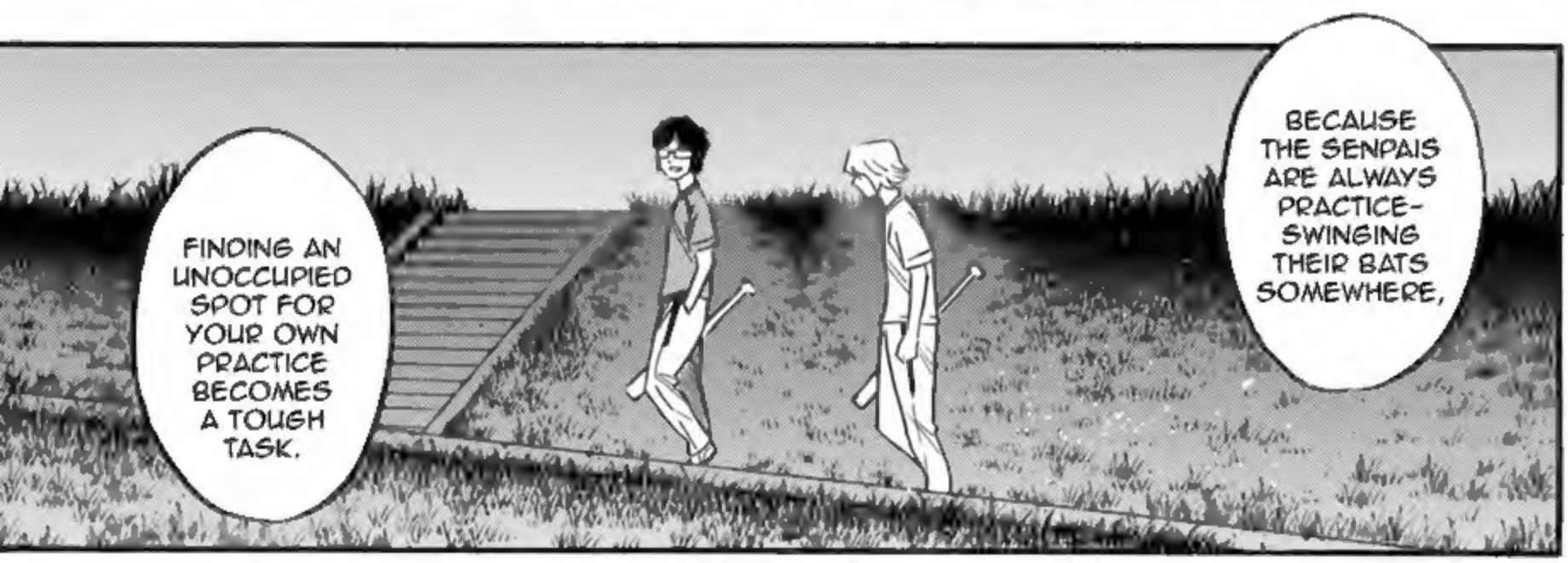
TO US CATCHERS, THAT'S OUR DEAREST WISH.

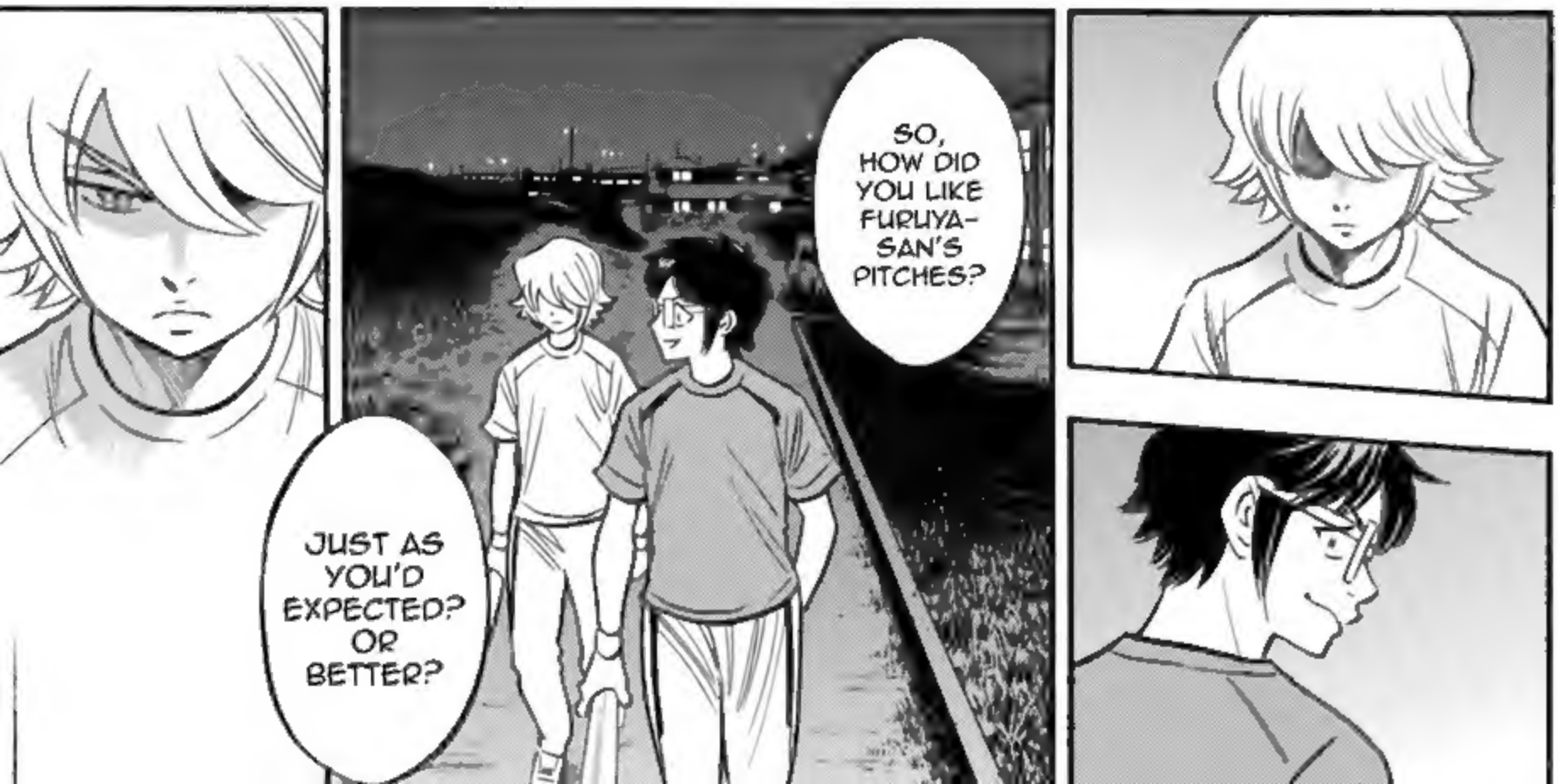
IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT I WANT TO WORK ON MY GAME CALLING, BUT MORE THAN THAT I WANT TO GET BETTER, IF ONLY A LITTLE, IN DRAWING OUT THE POWER OF YOU GUYS AS PITCHERS.



AND I DON'T WANT ANYTHING TO BREAK OUR WINNING STREAK WHILE MIYUKI IS AWAY...

THAT'S ALSO THAT, I HAVE TO ADMIT, IF I'M COMPLETELY HONEST.


BECAUSE THE SENPAIS ARE ALWAYS PRACTICE-SWINGING THEIR BATS SOMEWHERE,
FINDING AN UNOCCUPIED SPOT FOR YOUR OWN PRACTICE BECOMES A TOUGH TASK.


SO, HOW DID YOU LIKE FURUYA-SAN'S PITCHES?
JUST AS YOU'D EXPECTED? OR BETTER?

EH?

...

THEY WERE SCARY...

THERE'S THAT CRAZY POWER AND SPEED OF HIS, OF COURSE,

BUT MORE THAN THAT WERE THE EMOTIONS HE THREW AT ME...

HE HURLED THEM WITHOUT ANY HESITATION...

RIGHT AT ME...

IF I'M HONEST, FOR THOSE 3 INN NGS

I HAD NO ROOM FOR ANYTHING OTHER THAN BARELY KEEPING UP WITH HIS PITCHING

KOUSHUU...

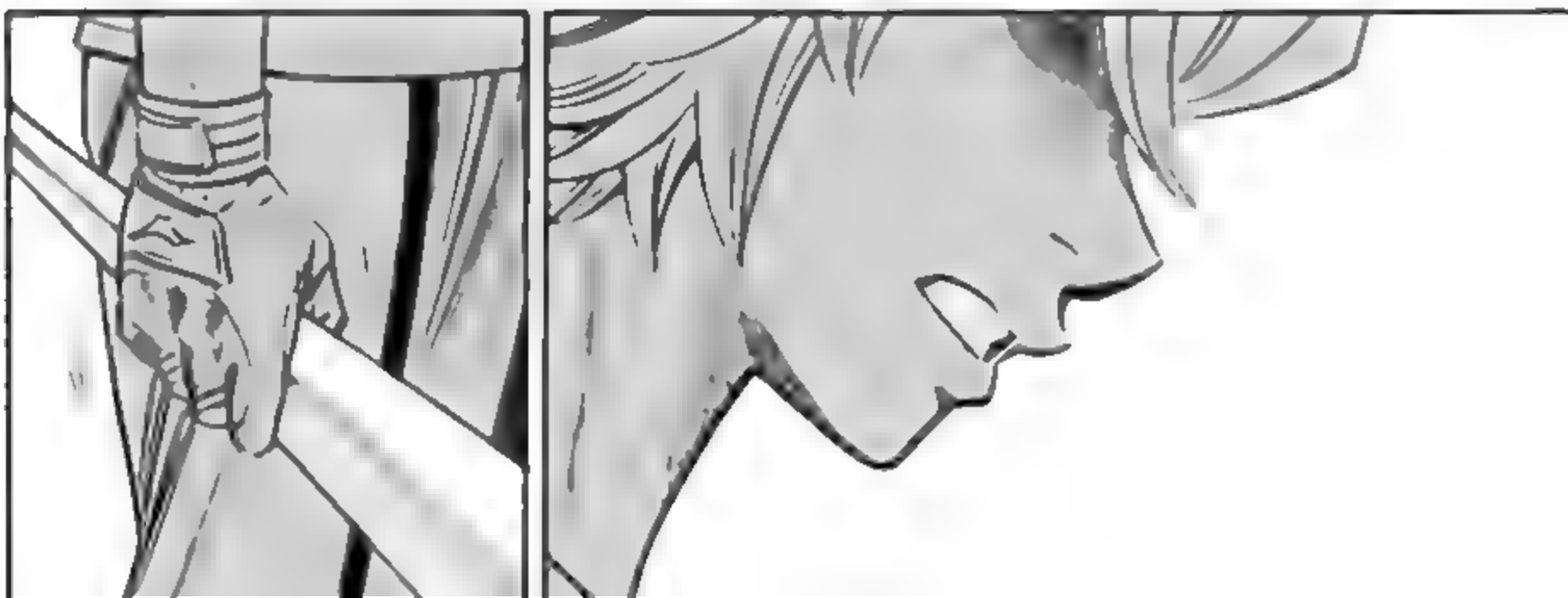
THIS IS GONNA BE DIFFERENT FROM THE WARMUP.

OKUMURA-kun BOY

TO THOSE TWO...

IT'S JUST BUSINESS AS USUAL, NATURAL AS BREATHING...

AND IN FRONT OF THEM,
THERE IS ALWAYS ---



CAN'T REACH THE PLACE WHERE THOSE GUYS ARE...

AS FRUSTRATING AS IT IS,

THE WAY I AM NOW, I CAN'T REACH IT...

DAMN ...

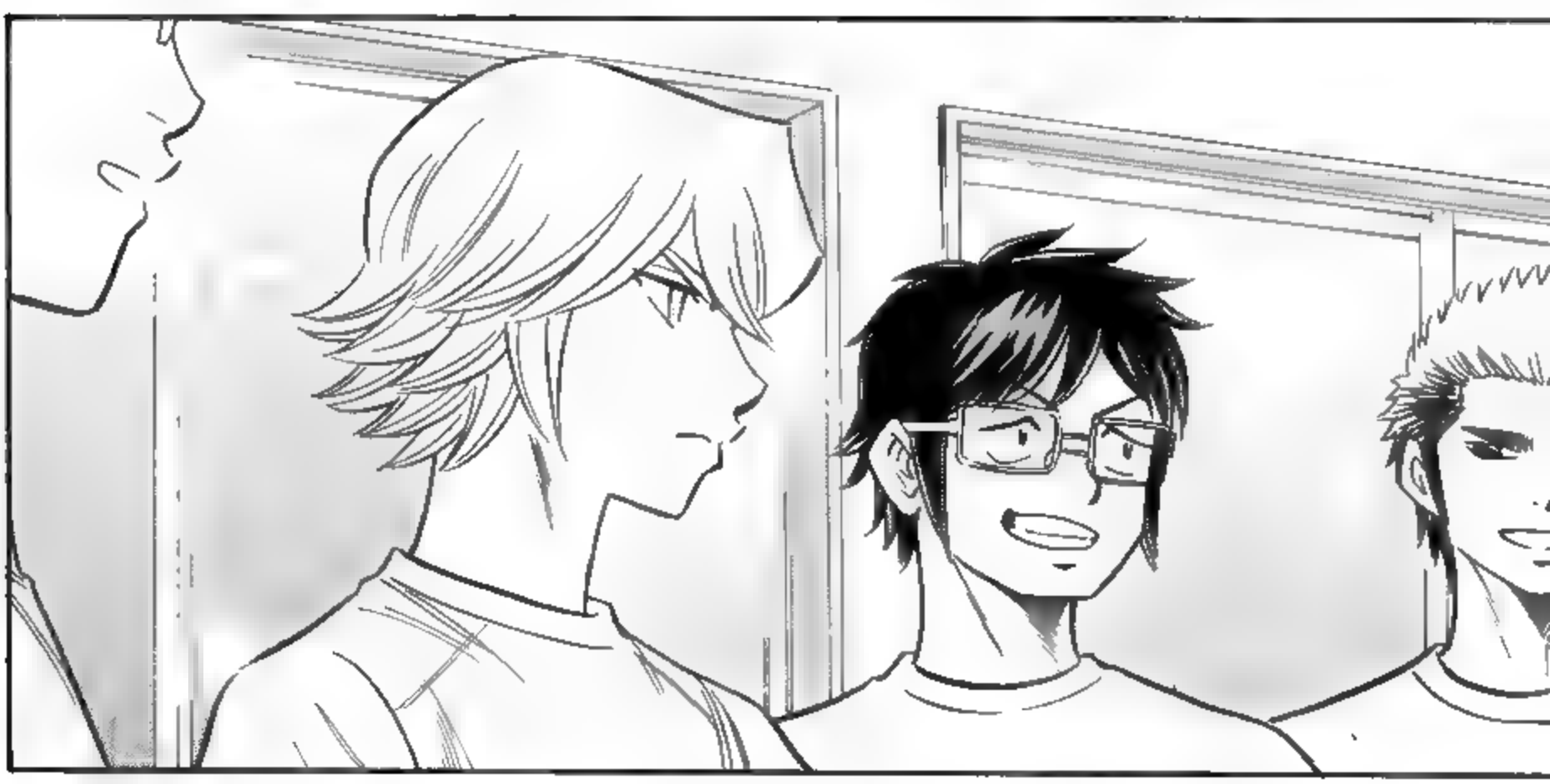
IT'S SO VEXING THAT I'M ONLY A FIRST YEAR...

I DON'T WANT TO LOSE...

青心寮
THE NEXT MORN-ING,

FURUYA WAS REINSTATED AS A MEMBER OF THE FIRST STRING,

AND OKUMURA AND SETO WERE OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED TO JOIN THE FIRST STRING.



SO TELL ME, WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF HIM AS HIS ROOMMATE?
IN OKUMURA'S CASE, HIS BASEBALL SENSE LEAVES NOTHING TO BE DESIRED, UNLIKE HIS MENTALITY THAT STILL SHOWS LEFOVER IMMATURITY

WHILE HE'S NOT ALWAYS STABLE, I'D SAY HE'S ADJUSTED ENOUGH WHERE MANNERS AND NORMS ARE CONCERNED.

NOW, LET'S TALK ABOUT THE FIRST YEARS THAT ARE TO JOIN THE FIRST STRING...

BACK WHEN I WAS A FIRST YEAR, THE SENPAIS USED TO SEND WITHERING GLARES MY WAY ALL THE TIME FOR BEING IMPERTINENT, TOO,

BUT I THINK ULTIMATELY, BEING ON THE FIRST STRING TAUGHT ME MORE THAN IT DID HARM.

SO MAYBE BEING THROWN INTO THE HIGH LEVEL ENVIRONMENT OF THE FIRST STRING CAN MAKE HIM REALIZE CERTAIN THINGS ABOUT HIMSELF ON HIS OWN, TOO?

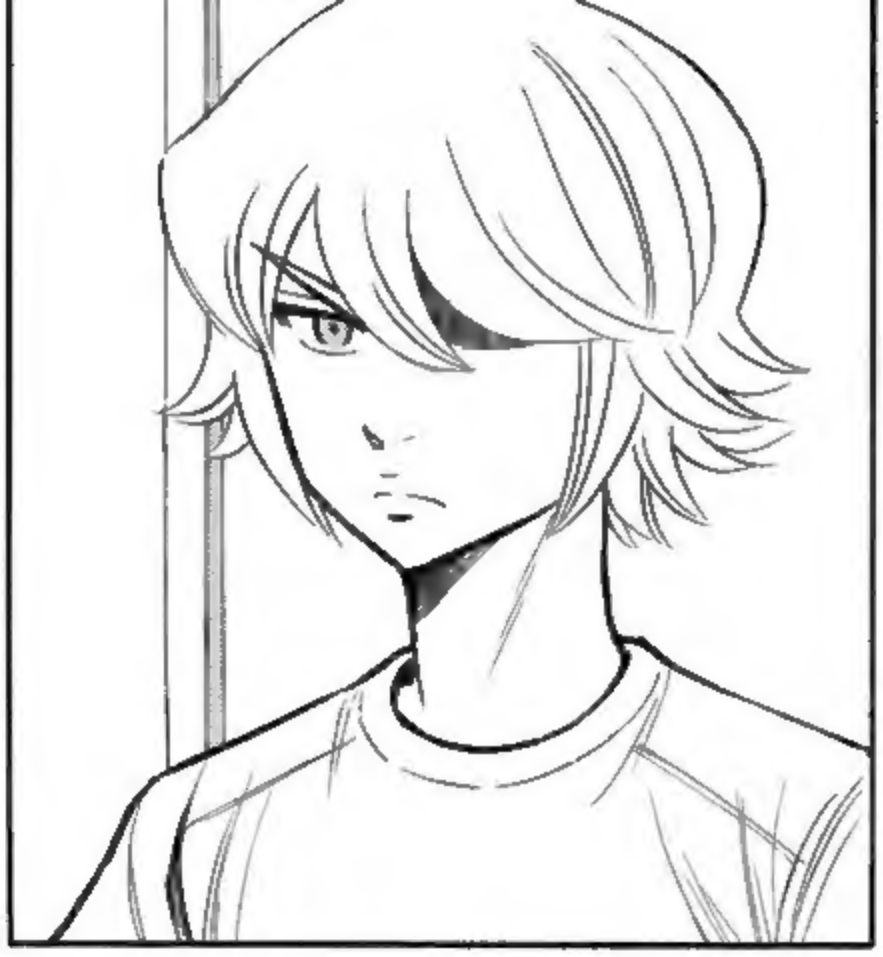
EHH?

SO YOU WERE AWARE YOU WERE BEING IMPERTINENT, HUH?

THE TYPE TO STICK YOUR TONGUE AT SOMEONE BEHIND THEIR BACK, WEREN'T YOU.

RIGHT, RIGHT! IMPERTINENT AND WISE-CRACKING!

THE UPPER-CLASSMEN WERE ALWAYS ON PINS AND NEEDLES AROUND YOU!



YES, I HAVE. ALTHOUGH I'M ONLY A TEMP SUBSTITUTE WHILE MIYUKI-SENPAI IS AWAY...
SO YOU'VE MADE THE FIRST STRING AT LAST.

FROM NOW ON, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CALL ME WHENEVER YOU FEEL LIKE IT.
I'M SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING FOR SO LONG.

EVEN RIGHT NOW IS FINE IF YOU SO DESIRE...

TOMORROW IS THE DAY WHEN MIYUKI-SENPAI IS SET TO CATCH FOR ME.

TOMO-RROW IT IS, THEN.

THEN TOMO-RROW...

WAHAHAHAHA! UNFORTUNATELY FOR YOU, TODAY IS A NO-THROW DAY!

THE TWO'S ZEAL RESONATES, AND THE DAY OF THEM PAIRING UP IS COMING..!

LET'S MAKE IT TOMO-RROW.

WAHAHAHA! WHATEVER SHOULD I DO, HM?!

Special Thanks

Raws

Eiji

Redrawer

Hoshi no Saikuru

ダイヤのA エース

Ace of Diamond

TDX release